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YELVERTON GROVE ORIGINAL  
FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH  
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY  
MARCH 25, 2001

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Yelverton Grove Original Free Will Bapt

**YELVERTON GROVE**  
**ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST**  
**CHURCH**

**STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY**

**MARCH 25, 2001**



**REV. JOESPH E. BALLANCE**  
**PASTOR**

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Miracles begin when  
*Godly Men*  
serve with  
*Humble Hearts.*



It is God who works in you  
to will and to act according to his good purpose.

PHILIPPIANS 2:13 NIV

# **YELVERTON GROVE OFWB CHURCH**

**Rev. Joe Ballance, Pastor**

## **STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY**

**March 25, 2001**

<b>Call to Worship</b>	<b>Choir</b>
<b>Welcome &amp; Announcements</b>	<b>Rev. Joe B</b>
<b>Congregational Hymn "In The Service of the King"</b>	<b>Pa</b>
<b>Children's Church</b>	<b>Rev. Balar</b>
<b>Prayer List &amp; Prayer</b>	<b>Rev. Balla</b>
<b>Special Music</b>	<b>Choir</b>
<b>Offertory Prayer, Tithes &amp; Offerings</b>	<b>Ushers</b>
<b>Congregational Hymn "Onward Christian Solders"</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>Fellowship &amp; Welcome</b>	<b>Congregat</b>
<b>Recognition of Deacons</b>	<b>Rev. Joe I</b>
<b>Deacon's History</b>	<b>Claudette</b>
<b>Presentation of Deacon Award</b>	<b>Rev. Joe I</b>
<b>Recognition of Trustees</b>	<b>Rev. Joe I</b>
<b>Trustees' History</b>	<b>Claudette</b>
<b>Presentation of Trustee Awards</b>	<b>Rev. Joe I</b>
<b>Lighting of Memorial Candles</b>	<b>Claudette</b> <b>David Eth</b>
<b>Moment of Silent Prayer</b>	
<b>Special Music "Thank You"</b>	<b>Rev. Joe I</b>
<b>Special Service Recognition</b>	<b>Claudette</b>
<b>Charles Wood &amp; Stacy Jackson</b>	
<b>Stewardship &amp; Deacon Qualifications</b>	<b>Rev. Joe</b>
<b>Invitational Hymn "Give of Your Best to The Master"</b>	
<b>Benediction &amp; Grace</b>	<b>Rev. Joe</b>
<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Fellowsh</b>

## **CURRENT CHURCH & SS OFFICERS**

### **BOARD OF DEACONS**

<b>Elmond Lane</b>	<b>1955 – Present</b>
<b>Hubert Lane</b>	<b>1958 – Present</b>
<b>Charles Wood , Chairman</b>	<b>1987 – Present</b>
<b>Stacy Jackson</b>	<b>1994 – Present</b>
<b>Norwood “Bud” Creech</b>	<b>2000 – Present</b>
<b>Person Daughtry</b>	<b>Honorary Deacon</b>

### **CHURCH TRUSTEES**

<b>David Stephenson</b>	<b>1997 – Present</b>
<b>Bruce Strickland</b>	<b>2000 – Present</b>

### **OTHER OFFICERS**

<b>Charles Wood</b>	<b>Church Treasurer</b>
<b>Patricia Jackson</b>	<b>Church Clerk</b>
<b>Bud &amp; Carolyn Stallings</b>	<b>SS Treasurer</b>
<b>Stacy Jackson</b>	<b>SS Superintendent</b>
<b>Charles Wood</b>	<b>Assistant SS Superintendent</b>
<b>Hubert Lane</b>	<b>SS Secretary</b>
<b>David Stephenson</b>	<b>Assistant SS Secretary</b>
<b>Dorothy Wood</b>	<b>Song Leader, YFA Co-Director</b>
<b>Dianne Etheridge</b>	<b>Song Leader, Pianist</b>
<b>Jamie Strickland</b>	<b>Pianist</b>
<b>Eva Ballance</b>	<b>Pianist</b>
<b>Mavie Daughtry</b>	<b>Anxiliary President</b>
<b>Clara Powell</b>	<b>YFA Co-Director</b>
<b>Pearl McLamb</b>	<b>+50's Director</b>



## **2000/2001 SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS**

### **ADULT CLASS**

**Claudette G. Lane  
Hazel B. Lane  
Clint Holt**

### **YOUNG ADULT CLASS**

**Clara H. Powell  
Bobby Holmes**

### **COLLEGE CLASS**

**Stacy Jackson  
Eva B. Ballance**

### **SENIOR CLASS**

**Carolyn N. Stallings  
Linda J. Toole**

### **BEGINNER CLASS**

**Vivian H. Stephenson  
Scarlett T. Boswell**

### **NURSERY CLASS**

**Ada Hughes  
Gloria Holmes  
Mavie Daughtry**

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## **2001 BIBLE SCHOOL**

**June 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup>  
7:00 – 9:00 PM**

**CO-DIRECTORS:**

**Clara Powell  
Dorothy Wood**



YELVERTON GROVE OFWB CHURCH  
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY  
MARCH 25, 2001

CALL TO WORSHIP	CHOIR
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS	REV. BALLANCE
CONGREGATIONAL HYMN "IN THE SERVICE OF THE KING"	PAGE 178
CHILDREN'S CHURCH	REV. BALLANCE
PRAYER LIST & PRAYER	REV. BALLANCE
SPECIAL MUSIC	CHOIR
OFFERTORY PRAYER	
ITHES & OFFERINGS	USHERS
ONGREGATIONAL HYMN "ONWARD CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS"	PAGE 353
ELLOWSHIP & WELCOME	CONGREGATION
ECOGNITION OF DEACONS	REV. JOE BALLANCE
RESENTATION AWARD TO BUD CREECH	REV. JOE BALLANCE
STORY	CLAUDETTE LANE
ECOGNITION OF TRUSTEES	REV. JOE BALLANCE
WARD PRESENTATION TO DAVID STEPHENSON & BRUCE STRICKLAND	REV. JOE BALLANCE
STORY	CLAUDETTE LANE
IGHTING OF MEMORIAL CANDLES	DAVID ETHERIDGE
MENT OF SILENT PRAYER	
ICIAL MUSIC "THANK YOU"	REV. JOE BALLANCE



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RECOGNITION OF PASTOR’S SERVICE	REV JOE & EVA BALANCE
HISTORY	CLAUDETTE LANE
TROPHY	CHARLES WOOD
“HAPPY BIRTHDAY”	CONGREGATION
PRESENTATION OF CAKE	STACY JACKSON
STEWARDSHIP & DEACON QUALIFICATIONS	REV JOE BALANCE
INVITATIONAL HYMN	“GIVE OF YOUR BEST TO THE MASTER” PAGE 348
BENEDICTION & GRACE	REV JOE BALLANCE
LUNCH	FELLOWSHIP HALL



**REV. JOSEPH E. BALLANCE**  
**PASTOR**  
**1999 – PRESENT**

Rev. Joseph E. Ballance was born on March 26, 1955 in Johnston County to James C. and Beadie Ballance. He was the youngest of three sons, having two older brothers, James T. and Marvin E. Ballance.

Joe attended Glendale Chapel Elementary School. At the age of thirteen, he went to Holly Springs Original Free Will Baptist Church near Kenly, NC. Within six months, he accepted Christ as his personal Savior under the pastorate of the Rev. V. R. Martin. Preacher Martin and his wife, Mary, became a strong spiritual influence in Joe's life, and the Martin family became an extension of his own. Joe became very active in the Sunday School and Church programs, especially the Youth Choir and YFA.

Joe attended North Johnston High School and during his senior year, he began dating Eva Boykin, who would later become his wife. In June 1974, Joe graduated from North Johnston High School and worked in Wilson, NC. Later, he worked in Smithfield, NC and then moved to Raleigh and was employed there. Joe and Eva were engaged on October 25, 1976, during Eva's senior year in high school. While Eva was a student at Rex Hospital School of Radiology, the Rev. W. R. Martin married Joe and her on December 18, 1977 at Holly Springs OFWB Church.

Joe served in many positions at Holly Springs OFWB Church. He was SS Superintendent, SS Teacher, Adult Choir member, Co-Youth Choir Director. Eva was very active and supportive in these roles as well.

In December 1993, Joe and Eva returned to reside in Johnston County. They were blessed with their child, Elisabeth Marie, born on July 16, 1986.

In 1994, Joe was ordained as a deacon at Holly Springs OFWB Church. Having the desire to further his Christian education, Joe enrolled in evening classes at Carolina Bible Institute. While in pursuit of higher learning, the Lord called Joe into the ministry. After struggling with the call, Joe submitted to the Lord in May 1997. Joe had completed his certificate in Bible Chronology, Diploma in Bible, and Graduate in Theology Degree from Carolina Bible Institute. He became a licensed minister and sat for the Ordination examination following the required one-year waiting period. He was ordained on December 13, 1998 and was blessed by the Lord to become the pastor of Yelverton Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church, beginning January 1999. Joe has received his Associate Ministry Degree and upon completion of two credit hours, he will graduate with his Bachelor's Degree from Carolina Bible Institute.



Joe has been employed as a System's Analyst for the City of Raleigh for twenty-one years. Eva has been employed by Wake Internal Medicine as a Radiology Manager for twenty-two years. Elisabeth is a freshman at North Johnston High School.

Joe continues to serve the Lord and his church with joy and thanksgiving. He recognizes the miraculous hand of the Lord at work in his life as well as the lives of others. The congregation of Yelverton Grove OFWB Church is very special to him, especially the overwhelming love shown one to another. He praises the Lord and prays for each member daily. The congregation is now an extension of his family, which he loves and cares for very deeply.





**YELVERTON GROVE OFWB CHURCH  
DEACONS**

<b>R.C . Lane</b>	<b>Charter Member – 1960</b>
<b>Will Lane</b>	<b>Charter Member – 1958</b>
<b>Rommie Daughtry</b>	<b>1955 – 1961</b>
<b>Elmond Lane</b>	<b>1955 – Present</b>
<b>Hubert Lane</b>	<b>1958 – Present</b>
<b>Eugene Jones</b>	<b>1958 – 1999</b>
<b>Person Daughtry</b>	<b>1961 – 2000 (Honorary)</b>
<b>Lester Stephenson</b>	<b>1972 – 1987</b>
<b>Clinton Lane</b>	<b>1972 – 2000</b>
<b>Charles Wood</b> (Board Chairman)	<b>1987 – Present</b>
<b>Stacy Jackson</b>	<b>1994 – Present</b>
<b>Norwood “Bud” Creech</b>	<b>2000 – Present</b>

**YELVERTON GROVE OFWB CHURCH  
TRUSTEES**

<b>Walter Lee Roberts</b>	<b>1962 – 2000</b>
<b>Clinton Lane</b>	<b>1962 – 2000</b>
<b>Eugene Jones</b>	<b>1962 – 1999</b>
<b>Draper Johnson</b>	<b>June - October, 1994</b>
<b>David Stephenson</b>	<b>1997 – Present</b>
<b>Bruce Strickland</b>	<b>2000 – Present</b>



**R. C. LANE  
DEACON  
CHARTER MEMBER – 1960**

**Robert Clinton Lane was born on October 6, 1888. He was one of eight children of Henry Jefferson and Cynthia Pearce Lane. He was reared on a farm east of Smithfield, NC.**

**R. C. or Rob as he was called, married Ellen Peedin on March 14, 1913. They were blessed with two daughters, the late Mildred Lane and Margaret Lane Pounds, and one son, the late Clinton Lane. He had three grandchildren: Jerry Pounds of Raleigh, NC, Judy Pounds Shearon of Raleigh, and Deborah Lane Davenport of Selma, NC. There are three great-grandchildren, Rusty and Meloney Pounds of Clayton, NC, Kristie Davenport of Selma, NC and one great-great-grandchild, Catylin Pounds of Clayton, NC.**

**Mr. Rob was a farmer all of his life. He was known as a man who loved the Lord God with all of his heart. Yelverton Grove OFWB Church played a key role in his life. He was a charter member of the church which was deeded on January 23, 1899 by B. B. Yelvington. From the church beginning, he was active as a ruling elder and as a Charter Deacon. He served until his death on November 6, 1960.**



**WILL LANE  
DEACON  
CHARTER MEMBER – 1958**

**William L. Lane was born in February 1889 to Henry Jefferson and Cynthia Pearce Lane. He was reared on a farm east of Smithfield, NC.**

**He was known to everyone as “Will” Lane. He married Bessie Daughtry on August 10, 1913. They were blessed with four children, two sons, Ronald of Selma, NC and Milton Earl Lane of Smithfield, NC, two daughters, the late Eva Lane Thompson and Audrey Lane Brown of Selma, NC. They had eight grandchildren.**

**Mr. Will was known as a man of God. He was a charter member of Yelverton Grove OFWB Church which originated and was deeded on January 23, 1899 by B. B. Yelvington. He served as a Charter Deacon until his death on June 7, 1958.**





**ROMMIE DAUGHTRY  
DEACON  
1955 – 1961**

**Rommie Daughtry was born on February 12, 1893 to Jesse and Cassandra P. Daughtry.**

**He was reared in Johnston County.**

**He married the former Melissa Lane also known as "Lissie". They were the parents of four children: the late Goldie D. Rose, Hallie Mae D. Suggs of Smithfield, Elizabeth D. Radford of Hopewell, VA, and one son, Person Daughtry of Smithfield, NC.**

**There are nine grandchildren, several great-grandchildren, and some great great-grandchildren.**

**Mr. Rommie worked as a cabinetmaker. He was a Christian and an active member of Yelverton Grove OFWB Church where he was a ruling elder and a Sunday School teacher. He was appointed Deacon in March 1955. He served as Chairman of the Deacon Board until his death on February 12, 1961.**



**ELMOND BERNICE LANE**  
**DEACON**  
**1955 – PRESENT**

**Elmond Bernice Lane was born on August 1, 1923. His parents were the James Harry and Lucy Branch Lane. He was the second son and the oldest living child today. He had three brothers and one sister who died in early childhood. He has two brothers, Leon R. Lane of Oxford, NC and Hubert Lane of Smithfield, NC. Elmond grew up on the family farm east of Smithfield and attended school in Smithfield.**

**He married the former Patsy Fields in 1942. They were blessed to have two sons, Jim and Wayne Lane of Smithfield, NC and LaRue L. Peterson of Concord, NC. Elmond has two grandchildren, April and Shaun Peterson.**

**Elmond's career began in 1948 and spanned 32 years with the NC Department of Transportation. He retired in 1980.**

**Elmond accepted Jesus Christ as his personal savior and has been an active member in Yelverton Grove OFWB Church since the 1930's. He was appointed Deacon in March 1955. He is oldest living deacon and the fourth one appointed since the origin of the church. Elmond served as Chairman from 1961 until he became unable to serve due to illness a few years ago. He has remained faithful to his Lord, his church, and his family for many, many years. His life reflects that of a Christian.**



## **CHARLES EUGENE JONES**

**DEACON**  
**1958 – 1999**

**TRUSTEE**  
**1962 - 1999**

**Charles Eugene Jones was born on January 17, 1918 in Johnston County to Claude and Annie Jones Jones. He was one of three sons. His brothers were A.G. Jones and Willis Jones. Eugene's daddy died while he was very young and when he was five five years old, his mother married Mr. Lynn Elbert Adams. Eugene had one half brother, Ludolph Adams and one half sister, Ellen Adams Wellons. Ellen lives in South Carolina.**

**Eugene attended Johnston County Schools. He worked as a Postal Exchange Manager No. 46 from 1940 to 1943. He went into the US Army in 1943 and served for three years. On July 23, 1946, he married the former Maude Overby in Dillon, SC. They had been married 49 ½ years when she passed away on January 23, 1996. Eugene's career spanned 30 years as a body man with Pippin Motors in Smithfield. He retired in 1972. He was faithful, devoted, and caring husband who attended to his wife's needs for about 15 years while she was stricken with Alzhiemer's Disease.**

**Eugene accepted Jesus Christ as the Lord of his life and became a member of Yelverton Grove OFWB Church in 1947 at the age of 29. He was an active member until his death. He was appointed Deacon in June, 1958 and appointed Church Trustee in 1962.**

**He held two very important positions and served both well. He served on other committees and performed many odd jobs as needed around the church.**

**In late 1966, Eugene became very ill, and was hospitalized. During that time, a good friend, Margie Gower, cared for him. She became a very important part of Eugene's life. On Valentine's Day, 1997, Eugene gave her an engagement ring and asked her to become his wife. A wedding was never to be, He passed away on May 9, 1999 at his home in Smithfield.**



**JAMES HUBERT LANE  
DEACON  
1958 – PRESENT**

**James Hubert Lane was born on September 17, 1931. He was the fifth child to be born to James Harry and Lucy Branch Lane. He had three brothers and one sister who died in early childhood. His living brothers are Elmond Lane of Smithfield, NC and Leon R. Lane of Oxford, NC.**

**Hubert was reared on a small farm east of Smithfield. He attended school in Smithfield and graduated from Smithfield High School in 1949. Hubert's daddy died in 1949 and he began his career in farming on the family farm where he had been taught by his parents. He lived with his mother until she passed away in 1955.**

**He was drafted into the US Navy in 1956 where he served for six years. He married the former Claudette Gurley on February 20, 1960. They were blessed with one daughter, Ellen Rose Lane, on August 20, 1963.**

**Hubert accepted Jesus Christ as his personal savior in the early 1940's at an early age and joined Yelverton Grove OFWB Church. He has been an active member all of his life, having been a former Sunday School Teacher, a member of the Building Committee, a member of the Choir, and is Sunday School Secretary. He was appointed Deacon in 1958. Hubert supports all of the activities in the church. Even if he isn't on a committee, he always assists me in whatever I'm involved in which enables me to be active in many areas of the church.**

**Hubert enjoys hunting, fishing, sports, and working in his garden. He loves giving his plants and vegetables to others to enjoy.**





**ROMMIE PERSON DAUGHTRY  
DEACON  
1961 – 2000**

**HONORARY DEACON  
2000 – PRESENT**

**Rommie Person Daughtry was born on August 31, 1931 to Rommie and Melissa Lane Daughtry. He was the only son of four children. He has three sisters, the late Goldie D. Rose, Hallie D. Sugg of Smithfield, NC and Elizabeth D. Radford of Hopewell, VA. He is the son of Yelverton Grove OFWB Church's third appointed Deacon, Mr. Rommie Daughtry. Person was reared in Selma, NC where he attended school and graduated in 1950. He entered the US Navy and served for four years.**

**His career began in 1954 as a tobacconist where he worked for several different companies prior to his retiring in September 1996. He married the former Mavie Jean Thompson on September 14, 1957. Their marriage was blessed with a son, Jeff Daughtry and Gloria Holmes. Jeff is a Free Will Baptist Minister and pastors Westside church in Kinston and works at Mount Olive College. Person and Mavie have seven grandchildren of whom they are very proud. They are: Melissa T. Stanley and Scotty Taylor, Jonathon and Elizabeth Holmes, and Joy, Daniel, and Amy Daughtry. They also have one great grandchild, Kayla Stanley.**

**In 1961, Person accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of his life and became an active member of Yelverton Grove OFWB Church. He was appointed Deacon in April, 1961 and served actively until 2000 when he became an Honorary Deacon. He is a former Sunday School Teacher and continues to teach in the Young Adult Class when he is needed. Person believes in prayer and knows first hand what the power of prayer means. He was diagnosed with cancer and underwent surgery and treatment for it. He remains "cancer free" and gives God the praise and glory for his healing!**

**Person sends cards, visits the sick, enjoys reading and the Bible being his favorite book.**



**LESTER STEPHENSON**  
**DEACON**  
**1972 – 1987**

Lester Stephenson was born in Johnston on December 9, 1917. His parents were Lawrence and Nannie Roberts Stephenson. Lester was one of six children, having one sister, Amy S. Creech, and four brothers, Warren, Marvin, Gerald, and Rhonza Stephenson. All are deceased.

Lester grew up on a farm and made it a life long career. He married the former Irene Peedin on October 3, 1937. They were blessed with one son, David Lester Stephenson. They have three grandchildren, Janet S. Rouland, Wayne and Jason Stephenson.

Lester accepted Jesus Christ as his personal savior in 1963 and became an active member of Yelverton Grove OFWB Church. He did many handyman jobs at the church. He was appointed Deacon in June, 1972 and served actively until his death in 1987.



## **CLINTON LANE**

**DEACON**  
**1972 – 2000**

**TRUSTEE**  
**1962 – 2000**

**Clinton Lane was born on November 1, 1923 in Johnston County to Robert Clinton and Ellen Peedin Lane. He was the only son of three children. He had two sisters, the late Mildred Lane and Margaret L. Pounds of Smithfield, NC.**

**He grew up on a farm east of Smithfield. He served in the US Army during World War II. He married the former Hazel Brown on February 1, 1947. They were blessed with one daughter, Deborah Rose Lane who married Johnny Davenport and presented them with their only grandchild, Kirstie Heather Davenport.**

**Clinton accepted Jesus as his personal savior when he was a teenager and became a member of Yelverton Grove OFWB Church. He was active in the church all of his life.**

**As a member of the Building committee, he was instrumental in the building of the Sunday School Rooms and the Fellowship Hall that we enjoy today. He served as Church Clerk for 35 years from 1943 to 1979 except for the 3 years that he was away in the Army. He was the Adult Sunday School Teacher for over 40 years. He was appointed Church Trustee in 1962 and as Deacon in June, 1972. He served in both capacities until his death on January 28, 2000.**

**The Lord has always had first place in his home. He believed in prayer and knew first hand what the power of prayer could do. He suffered a heart attack about 1987 and was hospitalized for a long time. After he recovered, he continued to be very active in witnessing to the unsaved, in prayer, and in the Gideon's International Organization. He started the Deacon's Prayer Service that is observed at 5:00 PM each Sunday afternoon as a means of praying for Yelverton Grove OFWB Church and for the unsaved ones in the Community.**





**CHARLES WINSTON WOOD**  
**DEACON**  
**1987 – Present**

Charles Winston Wood was born on August 26, 1939 to Wesley and Lalon Barbour Wood. He was the oldest of six children, having had one brother and four sisters.

Charles attended Pine Level School where he graduated in 1958. He entered the US Navy in January, 1962 and served until December, 1993. He married the former Dorothy Wilkins on March 24, 1962. Their children are Tami Lynn Wood of Winston Salem, NC, Woody Dale Wood and his wife, Kaye, and two grandchildren, Sarah Elizabeth, and Zachary Dale Wood of Pine Level, NC.

Charles is currently working with Jones Brothers Furniture Company where he has worked for about 37 years.

He accepted Jesus as his personal savior and joined Pine Level OFWB Church. In 1968, he and his family began attending Yelverton Grove OFWB Church, where in June 1972, he moved his membership. His family have been active members ever since. He held the position of Assistant Sunday School Superintendent for many years and later became Superintendent. After a break of a year or so, he accepted the position of Assistant Sunday School Superintendent again and continues to hold that office. Charles was appointed Deacon in 1987 and has served as Chairman of the Deacon Board since 1994. He was a Sunday School Teacher for many years, is an active member of the Cemetery Committee, a member of the Choir, and has been Church Treasurer since October 1, 1997.

Charles enjoys hunting, fishing, and spending time with his family.



**STACY L. JACKSON  
DEACON  
1994 – PRESENT**

**Stacy L. Jackson was born on March 5, 1951 to Jack and Mildred Jackson. He was reared in the Brodgen Community and attend school at Princeton where he graduated in 1970. Stacy has two older sisters, Doris J. Hobin of Massachusetts, and Hazel Stephenson of Brodgen, and one younger sister, Dianne Etheridge of Smithfield, NC.**

**During Stacy's childhood, he was taught how to farm by his father, who passed away in 1993, and his mother. His mother continues to reside in the Brodgen community and attends Yelverton Grove OFWB Church. Stacy learned how to do everything from planting and harvesting crops to repair of farm equipment.**

**In 1971, Stacy met and married the love of his life, Patricia Ann Higgins. They were blessed with one daughter, Tracy Karla Jackson in 1986.**

**Stacy worked several years as a meat cutter at Winn Dixie Warehouse in Raleigh, NC. Later, he worked at Gelder Enterprises in road construction. At present, he is a Street Department Supervisor with the City of Raleigh.**

**Stacy accepted Jesus Christ as his personal savior and joined Yelverton Grove OFWB Church where he is an active member. He holds the office of Sunday School Superintendent, is a Sunday School Teacher, Chairman of the Sunday School Council, a member of the Choir, and resident Handyman for the Church. In 1994, he was appointed Deacon. He takes his work for the Lord very seriously, even though he is a happy-go-lucky person and seems never to meet a stranger. He cheers people up when they are down. He is a good husband and father.**



**NORWOOD E. CREECH**  
**DEACON**  
**2000 – PRESENT**

**Norwood Earl “Bud” Creech was born on December 28, 1925 in Johnston County to Walter P. and Nellie Godwin Creech. Bud is the youngest of five living children having two brothers, Lynwood and Ralph Creech and two sisters, Gladys Creech Daughtry and Helen Creech Boyette.**

**Bud grew up in a loving home. His father and mother were members of Smithfield Primitive Baptist Church. While growing up, Bud attended church there and would also go with his brothers and sisters to Sunday School at Yelverton Grove OFWB Church.**

**He attended school at Pine Level. His working years started out at Morgan’s grocery store across from Belks on Market Street. After he left there, he worked at Penders and Fords Grocery Stores in Smithfield and moved on to Piggly Wiggly when it came to town. He was Market Manager with Piggly Wiggly until they sold out and then he went to Winn Dixie at Market Manager. He helped to open three stores here and retired after 25 years of employment. He began working with the Edwards IGA in Smithfield as Market Manager and then retired. He stayed home for about one year and decided that he wanted to go back to work. He started a new career as a bailiff with the Johnston County Sheriff’s Department. He retired for the third time in 1997.**

**During the years of 1966 through 1986, Bud worked with the Johnston County Rescue Squad as a volunteer at night and as a standby on Sundays.**

**Bud married the love of his life, Eloise Stanley on July 6, 1947. They have been married for 53 years and live at their very own Creechville. They purchased Bud’s father’s land after his parents passed away located about 1 ½ miles from Yelverton Grove Church. Bud and Eloise started attending Yelverton Grove OFWB Church and accepted Jesus Christ as their personal savior in 1962 during a revival held by Rev. Luby Tyner.**

**Both Bud and Eloise are active, dedicated Christians and are members of Yelverton Grove OFWB Church. Bud was appointed Chairman of the Cemetery Committee and has worked many hours filling in graves, cutting grass and putting in markers. He was instrumental in our building the Fellowship Hall. Bud and Eloise sing in the Choir. Bud was appointed Deacon and was ordained on January 9, 2000. The Lord has blessed Bud and Eloise as well as all of us for having been brothers and sisters together in Christ. We thank God for them and their work for HIM!**



**WALTER LEE ROBERTS**  
**TRUSTEE**  
**1962 – 2000**

**Walter Lee Roberts was born on April 8, 1912 to David and Alice Wiggs Roberts. He had two sisters, the late Alma R. Stallings, and Mildred Roberts of Smithfield, NC, and one brother, Hubert Roberts of Smithfield, NC. He began his education in a one-room schoolhouse at the crossroads. He also attended school at Pine Level and at Selma. After school, he went to work for Massey and Blackman, a general store located near the railroad tracks in Smithfield.**

**In 1939, he married the former Beulah Youngblood. The union was blessed with one daughter, Barbara, who married Ashley Gene Spain. They gave Walter and Beulah their only grandson, Ashley Lee Spain, who in time gave them a great grandson, Ashley Walt Spain.**

**After the death of Walter's daddy in 1954, he left Massey and Blackman and began to farm. During that time he did all of the regular farming chores as well as the raising of layer hens and the selling of eggs. He served many years as the ASC Representative for the East Smithfield District. After his retirement from farming, he went to work for the Carolina Farmers Cooperative Tobacco Warehouse where he worked for about 22-23 years.**

**Walter was a devoted family man and a good neighbor. He was a husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather who loved his family very much. He accepted Jesus Christ at an early age as his personal savior and was active in the church. For a long time, he was the oldest living member of Yelverton Grove OFWB Church until his death on January 22, 2000. Church records dated September, 1928 showed his name to be one of the twenty names recorded. He was appointed Church Trustee in June, 1962. He was a member of the Cemetery Committee and other committees in the Church.**





**HERBERT DRAPER JOHNSON**  
**TRUSTEE**  
**JUNE, 1994 – OCTOBER, 1994**

Herbert Draper Johnson was born on August 31, 1926 in Johnston County. He was the son of Atlas and Essie Denning Johnson. He had three brothers.

Draper was a life long farmer. He married the former Jean Daughtry and they were blessed with one son, Ronnie of Pine Level, NC and three daughters, Gail of Wilson's Mills, Debbie of Four Oaks, and Patricia of Wilmington, NC. There are several grandchildren and some great grandchildren.

Draper was a World War II veteran of the US Navy. He accepted Jesus Christ as his personal savior in February, 1975 and became a member of Yelverton Grove FWB Church. He was very active in the support of the church with his time and financially in a quiet unexpected way whenever there was a need. He always kept the yards in good condition by supplying tractors with drivers and blades, trailers, fuel, or anything else that was needed. He supported the YFA with money for some of the youth to go to Cragmont, for YFA parties, and trucks with drivers for pyrides.

Draper was appointed Church Trustee in June, 1994 and served until his death on October 27, 1994. He is still remembered today through a Cragmont Memorial fund setup by his family after his death to provide funds for our church youth to attend the Cragmont Youth Conference each summer. Draper was an honorable, sincere man who has certainly been missed by all of us.



**DAVID L. STEPHENSON  
TRUSTEE  
1997 – PRESENT**

David Lester Stephenson was the only child born on October 5, 1940 in Johnston County to Lester and Irene Peedin Stephenson. He grew up in a loving home on a farm east of Smithfield.

He attended school in Smithfield and graduated in 1959 from Smithfield High School. He was taught what he needed to know about farming by his father. He farmed for many years, operated a greenhouse, and then went to work with the U. S. Department of Agriculture where he is currently and where he hopes to retire from soon.

After high school, David married the former Janice Wood and they were blessed with three fine children: Janet Stephenson Rouland of Germany, Wayne Stephenson and Jason Stephenson of Smithfield. On December 21, 1996, David married the former Vivian Holder. He has four grandchildren, of whom he is very proud.

David accepted Christ as his personal savior and became a member of Yelverton Grove OFWB Church where he had attended Sunday School for many years. He served as SS Secretary from 1979 to 1994. He has continued to serve as Assistant SS secretary since 1994. He was appointed Yelverton Grove OFWB Church Trustee in 1997 and is a member of the Cemetery Committee. David and Vivian are both active members of Yelverton Grove OFWB Church.

David enjoys fishing and doing woodwork.



**BRUCE E. STRICKLAND  
TRUSTEE  
2000 – PRESENT**

**Bruce Edwin Strickland was born in Johnston County to Wilbert and Josie Strickland. His father passed away in January, 1999 and his mother resides in the Carolina House in Smithfield. He was the youngest of four children, having an older sister, Betty Sue Duke, who lives in the Cleveland Community and two brothers, Gary of Cary, NC and Larry who passed away in 1973.**

**Bruce grew up in the Four Oaks Community and graduated from Four Oaks High School in 1968. He has always worked in the grocery business and is currently employed as a Sales Representative with Marketing Specialists.**

**Bruce married the former Jamie Strickland and they reside at 1186 Old Sanders Road east of Smithfield.**

**Bruce is an active member of Yelverton Grove OFWB Church and was appointed a Trustee in June, 2000.**

**He enjoys working in his yard and spending time with his boxer puppy, Brandy.**





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